suspected/ actual fraud, failure to comply with existing rules and regulations such as Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, Banking Regulation Act 1949, etc. and acts resulting in financial loss / operational risk, loss of reputation, etc. detrimental to depositors' interest/ public interest. The Scheme also provides the procedure for lodging complaints under the Scheme, framing protected disclosure policy by banks, etc. As per the Scheme, employees of the bank concerned (Private sector and foreign banks operating in India), customers, stake holders, Non-government Organisations (NGOs) and members of public can lodge complaints. The detailed Scheme is available at RBI website www.rbi.org.in.

Outstanding liability

367. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outstanding liability of Government as a proportion of GDP;

(b) whether Government is considering proposals to reduce interest burden on outstanding Government liabilities; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The outstanding liabilities of the Consolidated General Government, (consisting of the Central and State governments), of both internal and external variety, as a proportion of GDP is 77 per cent for 2007-08 (RE) and is 73.4 per cent for 2008-09 (BE).

(b) and (c) Consequent on the reduction in fiscal deficit in a phased manner as per Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act/Rules (FRBM) road map, the Union Government has taken steps such as lower market borrowing and phased introduction of active consolidation of debt. The 2008-09 (BE) provides Rs. 2400 crore towards active consolidation of debt.

At the State level, fiscal legislation has been enacted by 26 States; consolidation of the debt of 25 States and relief in the form of rescheduling of debt at lower interest rates and debt waiver for fiscal correction as per the award of the Twelfth Finance Commission has been made.

Increments for employees

368. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the implementation of the report of Sixth Pay Commission, employees whose last date of increment falls between February and June 2005 were delayed their due increments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the employees whose last date of increment was in January, and between August and December were advanced;

(d) if so, the reasons for differential treatment to certain group of employees;

(e) whether Government would give one increment in January 2006 to the employees whose increments were delayed;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) As per Sixth Central Pay Commission's recommendations accepted by the Government, the date of annual increments in all cases is 1st of July. Employees completing six months and above in the scale as on 1st July are eligible for annual increment on that date.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) After the implementation of Sixth Central Pay Commission's recommendation relating to date of increment, now there is only one date of annual increment in all cases, which is 1st of July.

Merger of posts

369. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Government posts bearing pre-revised scales of 6500-10500 and 7450-11500 have been merged;

(b) whether it has been carried out on non-functional basis or functional basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof; department-wise;

(d) whether the merger has also made changes in the seniority of employees falling under these groups of employees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This has been carried out as per the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission. These posts are spread across various Ministries and Departments.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Investment in IPL by banks

370. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that looking at the profits earned by the sponsors of Indian Premier League (IPL) the private equity funds, commercial and investment banks or even conventional banks may be lured to join IPL;